

Charles Petitions Commissioner

In 1862, a lease of the whole Killarney fishing area was made out to James Dickson and Charles T. Hammond. Mr. de la Morandiere wrote out a petition and addressed it to W.F. Witcher, then Commissioner of Fisheries, requesting that this fishing should not be leased to private parties or individuals since the Killarney residents depended on the fishing for their living and support of their families. The Commissioner approved of this petition and cancelled the lease of Dickson and Hammond.

Peacemaker Role

The following year, in 1863, during the Wikwemikong troubles with fishermen on Lonely Island, the Natives and Fishery Inspector William Gibbard, - Charles was present. He acted as peacemaker advising the First Nation people not to take the law into their own hands. It was not until he and Rev. Hannipaux, a Jesuit priest, put up security that the Native Chiefs would appear before the Government at Quebec City that the grievances were about to be [brought to the public's attention].

Builds Schooner, Writes Petition

In 1869, Charles built the schooner Rose of Killarney at that village. Many Manitoulin Island people took trips on that vessel between Michael's Bay and Killarney in later years.

Also, in 1869 Charles sent a letter of petition to the Governor-General asking him to intercede on behalf of the Killarney residents whose land was assessed too high in value by the assessor.

The Township of Rutherford and Killarney Townplot had been surveyed and set up the year before. Charles wrote:

"The Govenment has valued the price so high on our improved land that only a few of us are able to buy, especially this year where crops present such a poor appearance and the fishing [has given] so little remuneration. We therefore beg that a reduction of the price set on our improved [lots] be made so everyone could buy his own improvements, or adjust remuneration for our labour will satisfy us..."

Activities

Charles de la Morandiere was self-educated and spoke and wrote both French and English. He was also a good Native interpreter. His letters to the Government always were read meticulously and acted upon because of his knowledge of local and area affairs. In 1870, he published a lengthy article in French in the Review Canadienne on the early days of Manitoulin Island.

Near the end of December 1872, Charles suffered a stroke from which he never completely recovered. He was appointed Customs' Officer at the port of Killarney in May 1873 after the first Officer, Solomon Thebo (sometimes spelled Thibeault) could no longer continue. Charles held that position for the next twelve years, at which time he was superannuated. He was also Justice of the Peace for many years.

He sold his business to Lewis Smith of Owen Sound in 1874 and then the site was sold to James and Charles Noble and, finally, to the Dominion Fish Company who operated on the premises during Charles' dying days in July 1907.

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#4 P.R. de la Morandiere, Virginia de la Morandiere, George Platt Creighton of Owen Sound - Lots 12 & 13 on North side of St. Paul, Park lot #7, Oct. 23, 1877.

#5 Charles de la Morandiere, Josette de la Morandiere, Lewis Smith of Owen Sound, Merchant - Lot #7 South side of Channel. April 22, 1878.

#7 Charles de la Morandiere, Josette de la Morandiere, John Jones McKenzie of Hamilton, merchant - Lot #9 South side of Channel June 24, 1878.

All the above transactions were entered and registered on the specified dates in the Land Registry Book of Algoma District that was formed about 1858.

School Section Formed

In 1875, when Killarney's first school section was formed by Mr. Robert Little for the Government, it was noted that one of the first trustees to represent School Section #1 Rutherford was Alexis de la Morandiere.

On May 20, 1876 the School Trustees were listed as follows:

Alexis de la Morandiere - Senior trustee; Ferdinand Roque - second trustee; and John Egan - third trustee. In a note to Mr. John Egan on this date, Inspector Little stated in part:

"The third or last person elected shall continue in office until the next ensuing annual school meeting in such section, or until his successor has been elected.

"The retiring trustee, therefore, at the annual meeting held on the 18th April 1876 was Mr. Octave LaHaye and not Mr. Ferdinand Roque, as stated in minutes of said meeting".

First Secretary- Treasurer

Pierre Regis de la Morandiere was the School Section's first Secretary-Treasurer. His appointment took place on September 20, 1876.

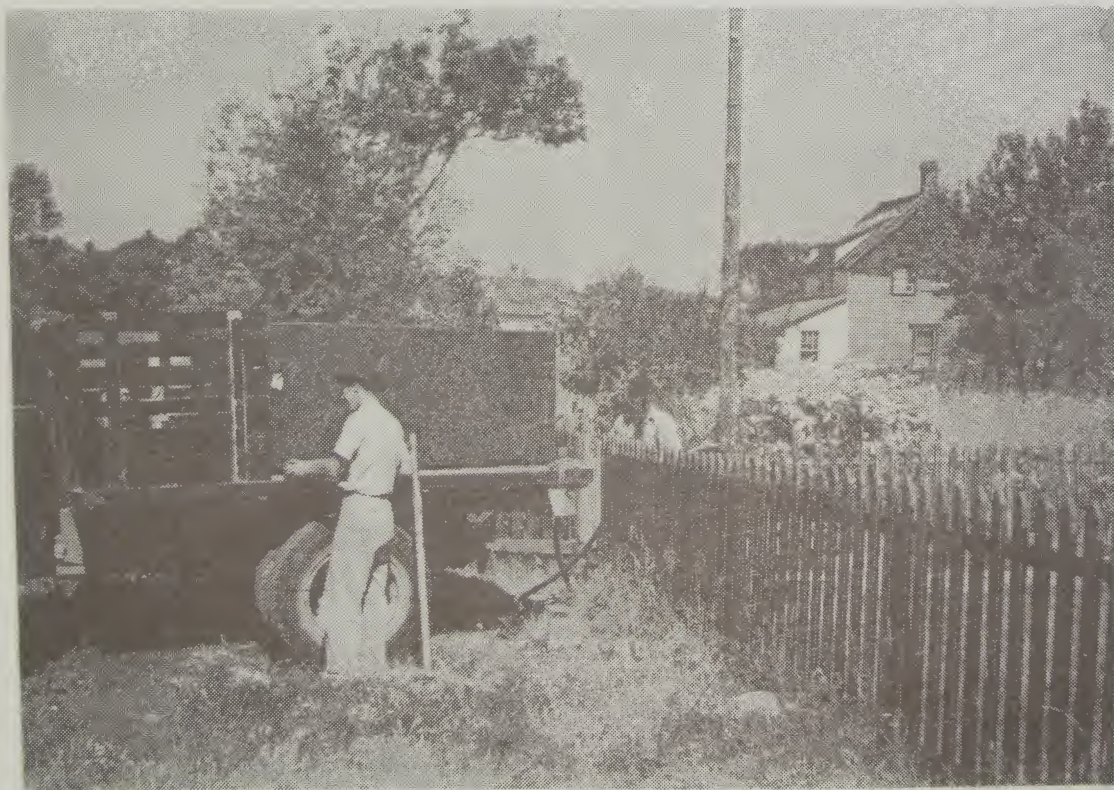
Dominic de la Morandiere signed as "Surety for Secretary-Treasurer.

About two months later - November 6, 1876, P.R. de la Morandiere signed a Bond in recognition of his added responsibility which was "Collector of Public School Rates, or Rate Bills."

The Surety who signed for P.R. in this capacity was Alex Proulx. Mr. Proulx was a brother-in-law to Pierre Regis.



P.R. de la Morandiere (circa 1920) is seen ploughing his farmyard on the property overlooking Killarney Bay.



Edgar Loosemore (left) and Jerome Proulx haul drinking water by truck and tank to Killarney homes in 1948.



(Left to right) Frank Haitse, his mother Mrs. John Haitse, Steve de la Morandiere and his wife Theresa, Jim de la Morandiere and his new bride Angeline Haitse on the latter's wedding day in February 1922.



Rochbert de la Morandiere and his wife Mary Mendoshkin at their wedding in the 1930's.



Joe de la Morandiere and Philomeme Egan about 1930.

A Chronology of Some Killarney Happenings

Because members of the de la Morandiere family have been in Killarney for the past one hundred and seventy-five years, I have selected some happenings involving that family to give the readers a glimpse of both Killarney's history and that of the de la Morandiere family. Space limitations have meant that many members and much of the history have had to be omitted. B.Pitfield

June 28, 1820 - Etienne (Stephen) Augustin de la Morandiere founded Shebahonaning, now called Killarney.

1823 - Stephen sowed wheat with a hoe and hand-rake and took his crop to Penetanguishene to have it ground into flour.

1834 - The celebration of Holy Mass was carried out in Stephen's log home.

1845 - Stephen moved to St. Joseph Island and then to Detour, Michigan to live with some family members. Other members remained in Killarney.

1856 - Stephen returned to Killarney.

1859 - He died on May 1st and his remains were buried in Wikwemikong. Stephen died one day before his ninety-second birthday.

June 13, 1865 - On this date, one of Stephen's sons, Fred de la Morandiere, was appointed as a Native Interpreter for the Chippewas of Nawash at an annual salary of one hundred dollars, by the Government. He was thirty-seven years of age at the time.

November 20, 1868 - Josephte (Sai-sai-go-no-kwe) de la Morandiere, wife of Stephen, died on this day. She was buried in Killarney.

Summer 1874 - The visitation of Lord and Lady Dufferin by steamer to Killarney took place. The whole village was out to greet her including the de la Morandiere families. Bishop Jamot also called on Mr. C. de la Morandiere.

1879 - The death of Josephte (Shepherd) de la Morandiere, wife of Charles and daughter-in-law of the founder, took place. She was a well-known mid-wife in Killarney.

January 1880 - Charles de la Morandiere, Senior, had his barn roof blown off during a severe storm.

January 1881 - Members of the de la Morandiere family who were attending classes in the waterfront log-school-house were: Mary, Julia; Joseph; Charles Jr.; Charlotte; Thaddeus and Louisa.

1882 - Members of various Killarney families including some from the de la Morandiere clan helped in the search for survivors from the steamer ASIA when it sank in September.

1885 - For fiscal year ending June 30th, Pierre Regis de la Morandiere received \$13.60 from the Department of Marine for supplies that he sold for bolts, rings and iron, in connection with the Georgian Bay Hydrographical Survey.

December 1889 - Steve de la Morandiere was obliged to shoot his mare owing to the animal's illness for several days and no medicine readily available to treat it.

June 1891 - The Jesuit priest, Rev. DuRanquet at Wikwemikong wrote to the Canadian Government to inform them that one of the teachers on the Wiky Reserve for the past ten years had been Sophie de la Morandiere of Killarney. She became the wife of Joseph Peltier, a Wiky merchant.

February 1900 - Mr. Dominic de la Morandiere and several of his friends were hauling cords of firewood for their homes.

Autumn 1901 - Tom Jackman Senior, who owned the Killarney General Store, sold on one occasion the following items to Adele de la Morandiere - one gallon of coal oil, one can of beef tea, one box of soda biscuits and ten cents worth of bananas.

Winter 1911 - P.R. and Virginia de la Morandiere were host and hostess to a large number of Killarney folks recently, when they held an enjoyable evening of cards and refreshments.



Bay of Islands, Georgian Bay from tracks of Algoma Railway - 1916.

October 1911 - P.R. de la Morandiere was in Gore Bay for a convention.

December 1914 - Charles de la Morandiere Junior, when tearing down his old barn suffered a painful accident when he fell from the first floor and struck his head. He nearly broke his left arm and that situation might render him unable to work for some time.

September 18, 1916 - Charles was married today to Miss Lillian Conrad by the Rev. Eugene Papineau. About one hundred people were served breakfast at Red Rock Farm, the home of Charles' parents, P.R. and Virginia de la Morandiere.

February 20, 1922 - The marriage of Mr. James de la Morandiere to Miss Angeline Haitse (sometimes spelled Haitze) took place today. Mr. Sammy de la Morandiere was groomsman and Miss Ada Lowe was bridesmaid.

March 1927 - Miss McDiarmid, Government Instructress, Department of Agriculture in Toronto, completed the millinery course at Killarney held at Red

First Hat Wearers

Beginning of the Custom Was in the Year 1449.

Charles VII on his triumphant entry into Rouen in the year 1449, we are told, astonished the whole city by appearing in a hat lined with red silk, and surmounted by a plume of feathers. It was the first time the citizens had ever seen a hat, says the London Chronicle.

From this entry of Charles' into Rouen the beginning of the custom of wearing hats in Europe is dated. It was all very well for the rich citizen to follow the example of royalty, but when the clergy began to sigh for similar splendour it was regarded as a falling away from grace. Priests or religious persons were at last forbidden to appear abroad in anything except "chaperons (made of black cloth with decent coronets.)"

A still more striking development took place in the sixteenth century. By the statute of 13 Elizabeth every person above the age of seven years, and under a certain degree, was obliged on Sundays and holidays to "wear a wollen cap - made in England - and finished by some of the fraternity cappers," under the penalty of three shillings, four pence for every day's neglect. They understood how to support native industry in those days.

Rock Farm. Afternoon tea was served by Miss Josephte de la Morandiere and during the social hour to show their appreciation for the help received in creating twenty lovely hats, the class of thirteen presented Miss McDiarmid with a handsome pair of silk hose and handkerchiefs.

April 5, 1931 - Joseph de la Morandiere turned eighty-six years old today. He received many congratulatory messages from his many friends and relatives.

June 1944 - Miss Melina de la Morandiere was hostess to a farewell party in the Parish Hall for Miss Moylan who has been Principal of the Separate School Staff for the last four years.

June 1947 - St. Joseph's School, Killarney, had among its graduates from Grade VII to Grade VIII - Kathleen de la Morandiere.

Grade II to Grade III - Lawrence and Virginia de la Morandiere

Grade III to Grade IV - Edward de la Morandiere

February 1947 - Sister Ignatius (the former Charlotte de la Morandiere) of the Sisters of St. Joseph Order in Peterborough, Ontario celebrated her Golden Jubilee as a Sister on January 5th. In August 1896, she entered the St. Joseph's community. She was born in Killarney on February 23, 1872.

Update

In 1995, we find that Joe and Agnes (Solomon) de la Morandiere are retired and living on the property once owned by Joe's parents.

Teddy and Vivian (Roque) de la Morandiere own property that overlooks Killarney Bay and on which they live and operate a private compground.

Alfred and Clara (Tyson) de la Morandiere live on Channel Street overlooking "The straight and narrow passage". Both are retired.

Regis de la Morandiere was born in Killarney in 1914. He spent several years as a mariner on the Great Lakes and made his home in Thunder Bay. He died a few years ago.

Mary (Mendoshkin) de la Morandiere (widow of Rochbert de la Morandiere) lives in Killarney. Rochbert was a brother to Ted, Julian, Alfred and Joe. He was nicknamed "Rugbear" and for many years guided and worked for American tourists.

Margaret (de la Morandiere) Payette is retired and lived in Killarney. Her sister Zella Wilson also lives there and is retired. Their brother Julian lives in the Sudbury area.

All of the aforementioned de la Morandiere men and women are from the family of the late Thaddeus and Emily (Landriault) de la Morandiere who were married in Cutler, Ontario in 1908.

If any of our readers patronize STRIPES RESTAURANT in Sudbury on Lorne Stree, they'll meet Jordan and his sister Yvonne de la Morandiere who operate the business. They are children of Pat and Julian.

The Killarney Lighthouses

Pierre Regis de la Morandiere was appointed lightkeeper of the East and West lighthouses, overlooking the Killarney Channel, on September 24, 1880.

These lighthouses were erected one year before Canada's Confederation and a government report, in June 1867, stated they were still "unfinished".

The first lightkeeper at these two locations was Philemon Proulx. He remained in that position until the summer of 1880. Several articles appeared in one Manitoulin newspaper that questioned Mr. Proulx's eyesight. There appeared to be at least another de la Morandiere - Alex - who held the position between Mr. Proulx's leave and the appointment of Mr. P.R. de la Morandiere.

Salary of Keeper - Description of Lighthouses

When Mr. Proulx was in the last year of his employment he was earning about \$500.00 per year in 1879-1880. For repairs he made to the lighthouse he was paid \$75.00 for that year.

The Inspector's report for 1878-79 gives us an idea as to the lighthouses that Mr. Proulx and then Mr. de la Morandiere had charge -

"...They are two white square towers with iron lanterns 4 feet six inches square, having two base burner lamps, with 14 inch reflectors, and are in good order; size of glass 22 x 13½ inches; height of towers 20 feet from base to vane. The zinc on both the platforms of the lighthouses requires repairs and material was left for the purpose. In No. 2 lighthouse (East) which is situated on the mainland, the sills are rotten and new ones are required; the clapboards also require some repairs. The kitchen of the keeper's dwelling requires replastering; keeper instructed to get estimate and forward it... The lights are in fair condition."

Lengthy Tenure

Mr. de la Morandiere kept the position of lightkeeper for over twenty years. After his tenure, Mr. Frank Roque looked after the lights for several years. Mr. Roque was a brother-in-law to Mr. P.R. de la Morandiere. Over the years, relatives of the Roque and de la Morandiere families held other lighthouse positions as well.

For example, Frank Roque's brother Jean-Baptiste Roque married Catherine de la Morandiere. Catherine's brother was P.R. de la Morandiere.

Jean-Baptiste and Catherine were married in January 1875. One of their daughters was Cecilia Winnifred Roque, who married William Frank Fowler (who came to Killarney about 1913), on February 5, 1914.

Mr. Fowler was placed in charge of the Badgeley Island lighthouse on a temporary basis on April 14th 1921. In later years, according to Department of Marine reports, Frank Fowler served as lightkeeper on Great Duck Island and at Cape Roberts on Western Manitoulin.

In just four years, Mr. Fowler was elevated from a \$750.00 per year salary in 1921 to a \$840.00 annual salary in 1924.

Alfred de la Morandiere's son-in-law

Another brother of P.R.'s was Alfred de la Morandiere Senior. One of Alfred's daughters became the first wife of Joseph Burke who came to Killarney about the turn of this century.

Joe Burke took charge of the Killarney East and West lights on July 1, 1912. He too served with great distinction for the next thirty-four years when he was superannuated on October 6, 1946.

P.R. de la Morandiere's son-in-law

A daughter of P.R., whose name was Adele, married a man who came from Michigan to Killarney shortly after the turn of this century. His name was Harry Loosemore, Senior.

Mr. Loosemore served as lighthouse keeper at Lonely Island for twenty-five years. Harry took charge of the Lonely Island light on April 27, 1916. Government documents regarding his retirement have this to say;

"(H.A. Loosemore retired as from 17th January 1942, until when he was on leave with pay, with an annual allowance of \$734.91)..."

Lightkeeper's Residence

In the 1970's, the late Ferdinand Solomon - also a lighthouse keeper at Killarney - wrote Mr. Pitfield to say that the residence in the village used by all former lightkeepers and himself was probably built "about 100 years ago." Another account stated that the first lightkeeper Mr. Philemon Proulx built the structure in the 1870's.

Mr. Solomon went on to state in his letter to Mr. Pitfield that the house;

"...still has the original windows and siding. I think they called the siding, board and batten which are wide boards stood upright and a narrow strip to seal the cork called a batten...since the Crown owned the land there wasn't any deed" until the Solomon's purchased it from the Crown.

The lighthouse keeper's residence was only torn down within the last couple of years by Mr. Solomon's widow.

Thus, there were, over the course of about one hundred and ten years, several occupants of that Federal Government house. Of those occupants the majority consisted of de la Morandiere members and their relatives.